

Children's Court Improvement Commission



2015 Annual Report Supreme Court of New Mexico

Judge John Romero and Judge Jennifer DeLaney – Co-Chairs

Introduction



The State Court Improvement Program (CIP) was created as part of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) of 1993. The Act provides Federal funds to state child welfare agencies and tribes for preventive services and services to families at risk or in crisis. Funds are also provided to enhance the court's role in achieving stable, permanent homes for children in foster care. Since 1995, the New Mexico Supreme Court has received a grant from the Children's Bureau to accomplish this purpose.

The direction of the CIP nationally and in New Mexico is to adopt a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) approach, focusing on measureable outcomes and logic models to develop effective innovations and interventions. Our strategic plan calls for improving outcomes for children and families through: 1) improved court processes; 2) improving educational outcomes through data sharing; 3) improving outcomes for children and families through improved representation; and 4) improving outcomes by increasing the knowledge, skill and ability of the child welfare and juvenile justice communities.

Some of the accomplishments of the CIP are:

- Implementation of expedited time frames in abuse & neglect proceedings in the Children's Code
- Implementation of permanency hearings and mandatory pre-adjudicatory and pre-permanency hearing meetings
- Development and implementation of mediation services in abuse and neglect cases
- Development and support of the Kinship Guardianship Act
- Establishment of the Corinne Wolfe Children's Law Center

- Extensive training and cross-training on multiple topics through the Children's Law Center
- Creation of youth attorneys for youth 14 years and older
- Development of model contracts and Supreme Court promulgated performance standards for court-appointed attorneys
- Establishment of the Tribal-State Judicial Consortium
- Collaboration on Preserving Connections, Open Adoptions, and other cross-agency initiatives
- Management and facilitation of Annual Children's Law Institute conferences
- Development of measures of timeliness of court hearings

You can learn more about the New Mexico CIP by browsing the website at <https://cip.nmcourts.gov/index.php/home.html>. CIP writes and publishes a number of Best Practice Bulletins and Information Booklets for youth, foster parents, biological parents, judges, attorneys, social workers, clinicians, child advocates and others who work with children and families. These can be found in the Resources tab within this website.

Children's Court Improvement Commission (CCIC)

The Mission of the CCIC:

"To improve the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and families in NM Children's Court by developing innovative initiatives through court, agency, and stakeholder collaboration."

The Chief Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court appoints a broadly based Commission to coordinate CIP activities. This Commission includes judges, legislators, representatives from Children, Youth, and Families Protective Services and Juvenile Justice Divisions, court-appointed attorneys, child and family advocates, educators, service providers, foster parents, youth, and other interested parties. The participants in the CCIC form a strong coalition collaborating to improve New Mexico's child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

Each year the CCIC works to improve outcomes in the lives of abused and neglected children and the children in the juvenile justice system. The Commission also works to provide a supportive structure wherein children and families whose lives have intersected with these systems are given support and assistance.

CCIC envisions seamless systems that are committed to safe, healthy and thriving children and families in New Mexico.

Our report reflects the endeavors of the Commission during this past year. Our report also reflects future plans and recommendations identified by the Commission. We are proud of the work of the Commission and believe the efforts of its members will truly make a difference in providing better outcomes for our children.

Initiatives with Tasks Completed



The New Mexico CIP has developed a strategic plan that focuses on four measurable outcomes:

1. **Improving Outcomes for Children and Families through Improved Court Processes;**
2. **Improving Educational Outcomes through Data Sharing between The Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD), Public Education Department (PED), District Courts and the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC);**
3. **Improving Outcomes for Children and Families through Improved Legal Representation; and**
4. **Improving Outcomes for Children and Families by Increasing the Knowledge, Skill and Ability of the Child Welfare Community**

The following will explain the steps that have been taken to accomplish the outcomes that are outlined in the strategic plan.

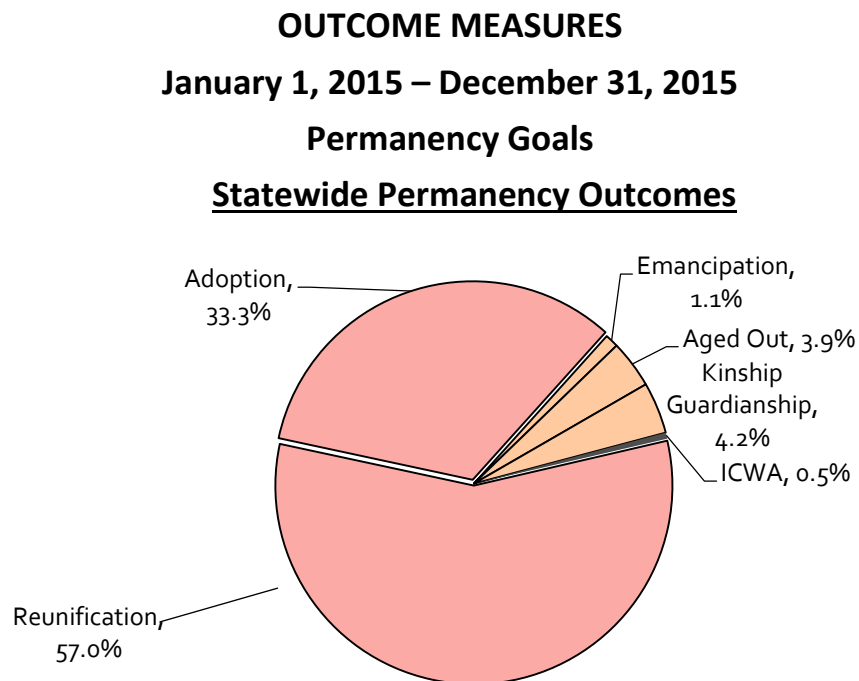
Outcome Measure #1: Improving Outcomes for Children and Families through Improved Court Processes

Preliminary results from a 2011 court case file audit indicate that there may be data entry errors and inconsistencies in the existing data elements used to calculate the timeliness of court hearings. The audit suggested that specific exceptions to standard court processes including data entry errors, extension of time waivers, and stipulations to allegations prior to or during the hearings may be impacting the outcome measures results. Utilizing the Odyssey Case Management System, standard process was developed for abuse and neglect cases to ensure accurate data entry by Court Clerks for calculating the timeliness of court hearings.

- **Monitor and Manage the Data Quality Process:**
 - Data quality reports were run on a monthly basis to identify data errors that needed to be fixed in a timely manner by court staff.
 - Two case audits were run, pre-adjudicatory and closing, for every abuse and neglect case.
 - Ongoing analysis of data will improve the quality of data entry to produce accurate outcome measures. The analysis will also help inform policy development and serve as evidence to support current policy initiatives.
- **Produce Valid and Reliable Court Performance Measures to Inform Improved Practice at the Local and State Level:**
 - A Tool for Judges to access court performance measures on an ongoing basis was created.
 - The Annual Self-Assessment Report, as well as the New Mexico Outcome Performance Measures Report were submitted to the Children's Bureau as part of the Federal Grant requirements for CIP.
 - Validation of data ensured CYFD and the Courts are capturing the necessary information by child.
 - A tickler system was established to assist the Judges on the timeliness of scheduling cases.
 - Judges are able to identify areas where performance measures are past the timelines and worked with local stakeholders on prevention and/or changes that may be needed.

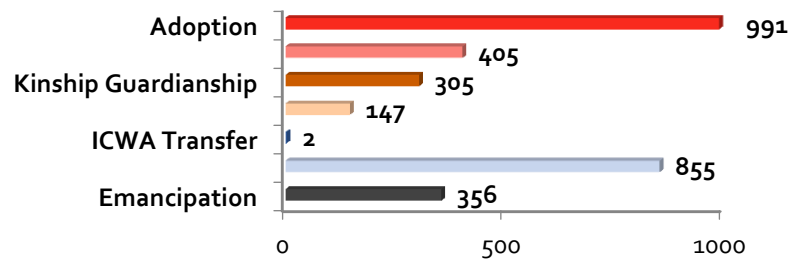
- Courts worked with the Tribal-State Consortium on cases which may be impacted by ICWA and identify collaboration efforts.
- **Development of child-centric best practices in the Odyssey Case Management System for Abuse and Neglect.**
 - Statewide training was held for district court clerks and Trial Court Administrative Assistants, which included the production of training guides and a desktop reference guide for court clerks. These training guides can be found on the Court Improvement Project website at:
<https://cip.nmcourts.gov/index.php/resources.html>

The following charts show the statewide performance measures as submitted to the Federal partners and the Children's Court Judges in December 2015:



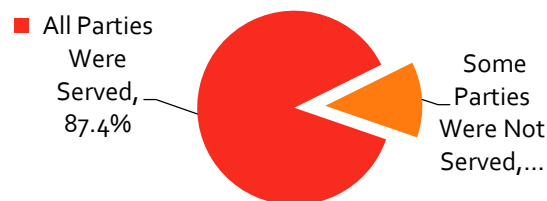
The chart shows the percentage of children who reach legal permanency by reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship, and the percentage of children who leave the child welfare system without achieving legal permanency. Over half of the children are reunified with their birth families, and one third reach legal permanency through adoption.

Time to Permanent Placement by Permanency Outcome



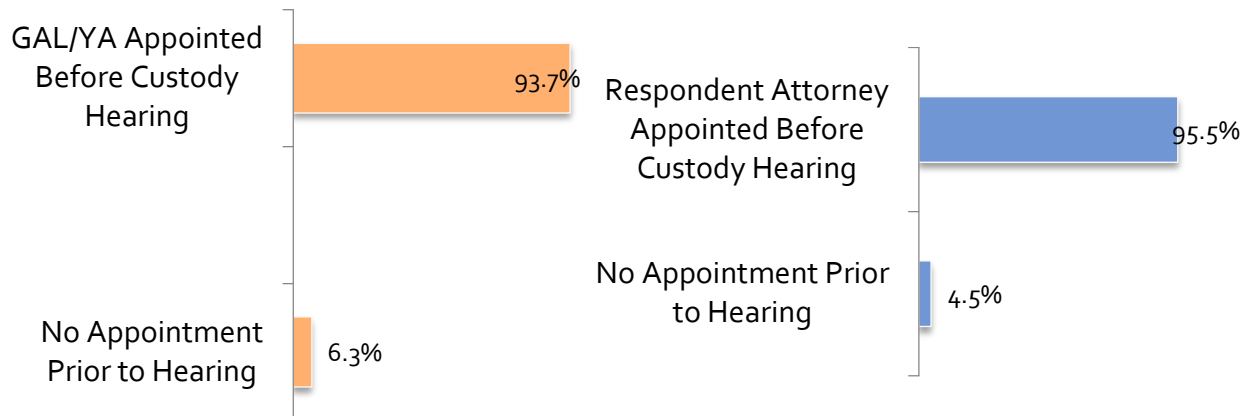
This measure shows the median days from filing of the original petition to the date a child achieves a permanency outcome. The results show approximately; 1) 13 months to reunification, 2) 32 months to adoption, 3) 28 months to aging out, and 4) under 12 months for the remaining outcomes. The data will help children's courts monitor time in care in order to eliminate delays in achieving legal permanency for children in abuse and neglect cases.

Due Process Service of Process to Parties



The chart shows the percentage of child abuse and neglect cases in which all respondents received written service of process of the original petition (87.4%), and the percentage where some parties were not served (12.6%). With the implementation of the Odyssey case management system, Children's Courts are able to track service for all parties. Because the process to track service is new to Odyssey, further analysis must be done to determine the reasons contributing to the high percentage of parties not receiving notice. One possible explanation is data quality errors or inconsistent court processes.

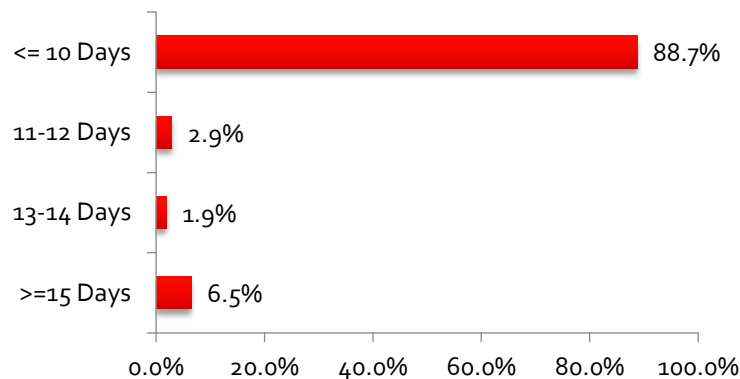
Appointment of Counsel



These two charts respectively show the percentage of cases in which a GAL or Youth Attorney (YA) was appointed for the child/youth prior to the custody hearing (93.7%), and the percentage of cases in which a respondent attorney was appointed for the respondent(s) prior to the custody hearing (95.5%). The data will help courts evaluate whether attorneys are appointed in timely manner, according to statute. See §32A-4-10(B)

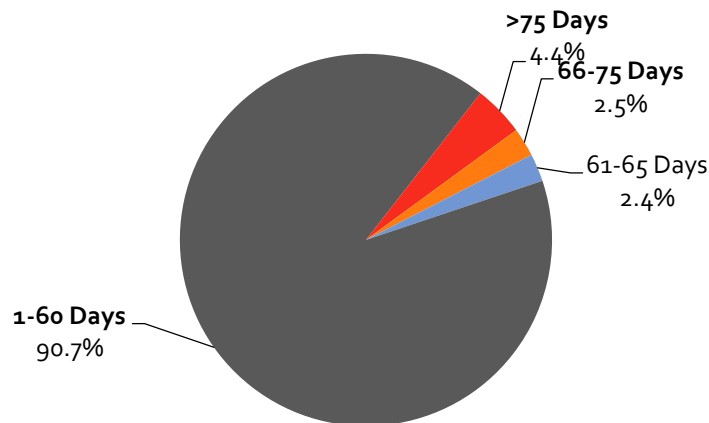
Timeliness Measures

Timeliness of Custody Hearing



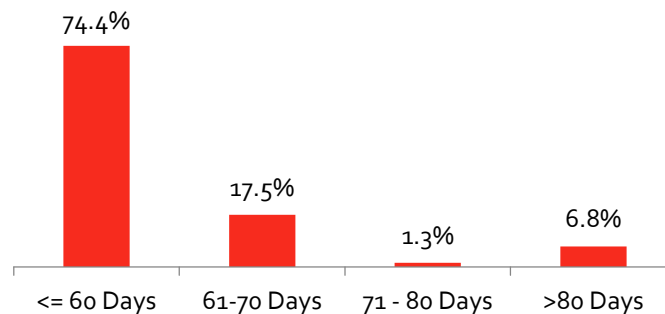
Per the Children's Code, the custody hearing is required within 10 business days of filing the petition. The chart above shows that almost 90% of custody hearings in calendar year 2015 were timely.

Timeliness of Adjudication Commenced



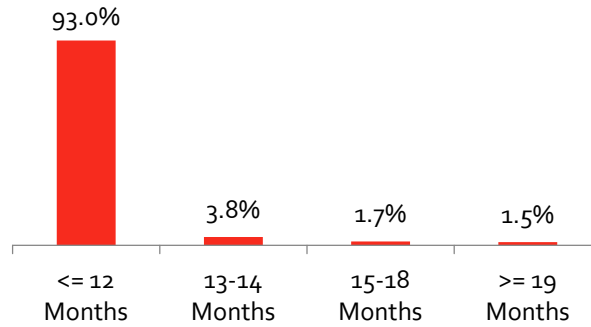
Per the Children’s Code, the adjudicatory hearing must commence within 60 days after the date of service on the respondent. The chart above shows that just over 90% of adjudicatory hearings in calendar year 2015 were completed timely (60 days or fewer). The purpose of this data is to help courts monitor the timeliness of adjudication as this impacts the timeliness of permanency outcomes for children who are in state custody. The more quickly adjudication is completed, the shorter the period of anxiety and uncertainty for parent and child while awaiting the outcome of the case.

Timeliness of Initial Judicial Review



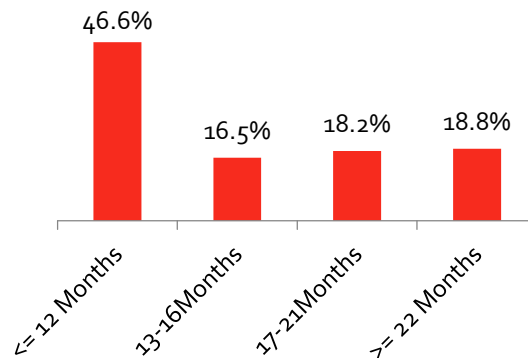
The Initial Judicial Review must be held within 60 days of the disposition. As evident in the chart above, just over 74% of the 2015 Initial Judicial Reviews fell in this time frame. As with all timeliness measures, the data allows courts to monitor timeliness of key hearings in order to monitor the overall pacing of permanency.

Timeliness of the Initial Permanency Hearing



The Initial Permanency Hearing must be held six months from the Initial Judicial Review or within 12 months of the date the child "entered foster care," whichever is earlier. This measure is based on time from petition. As shown in the chart above, Initial Permanency Hearings were held within 12 months from petition for 93% of these children.

Time to Termination of Parental Rights



This measure is based on time from filing of the original child abuse and neglect petition to the termination of parental rights (TPR). As is evident in the chart above, about 47% of the time, this takes place in 12 months or fewer. On the other hand, almost 20% of these TPRs take place 22 months or more from the filing of the petition.

Outcome Measure #2: Improving Educational Outcomes through Data Sharing between the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD), Public Education Department (PED), District Courts and the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

Well-being projects include any efforts related to improving the well-being of youth. For New Mexico, the focus was on education.

- **Develop and Implement Training and Technical Assistance Plan to Sustain this Initiative:**

- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Public Education Department, Administrative Office of the Courts, and the Children Youth and Families Department to share educational data on children in Protective Services and Juvenile Justice. *See Attachment #1.*

A Data run and analysis was conducted on educational outcomes on youth that are in the custody of the protective services division or are under supervision of the juvenile justice division, as compared to children that are not involved in either system. *See Attachment #2.*

- **Create and Evaluate a Process to encourage Child and Youth Specific Data Sharing and Improved Communication and Coordination in Local Communities:**
 - Through Casey Family Program funding, Localized Education Efforts meetings were held to develop action plans, improve data sharing, communication, and coordination at the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth District Courts. Agencies that participated in the meetings were CYFD, Protective Services and Juvenile Justice; District Courts and local school districts. *See Attachment #3.*

Outcome Measure #3: Improving Outcomes for Children and Families through Improved Legal Representation

Data that measures the quality legal representation will inform an organizational model for representation that is efficient, sustainable, and results in positive outcomes for children and families. The CCIC has worked diligently over the years to ensure and improve the quality of legal representation in child welfare proceedings. Our efforts have included: contracting with attorneys to represent children and families, developing

sets of performance standards approved by the Supreme Court, changing our model to direct representation for 14+ year old clients, attempting varying evaluations of quality of representation, requiring attorneys to attend pre-service/in-service training specifically related to child abuse or neglect, and requiring attorneys to provide both billing and performance information in an on-line attorney log. However, we have not systematically evaluated individual attorney performance or examined the relationship between case management elements, models of service delivery, and outcomes for children and young people. We now need to develop hypothesis driven analyses that will begin to inform our understanding of the quality of representation.

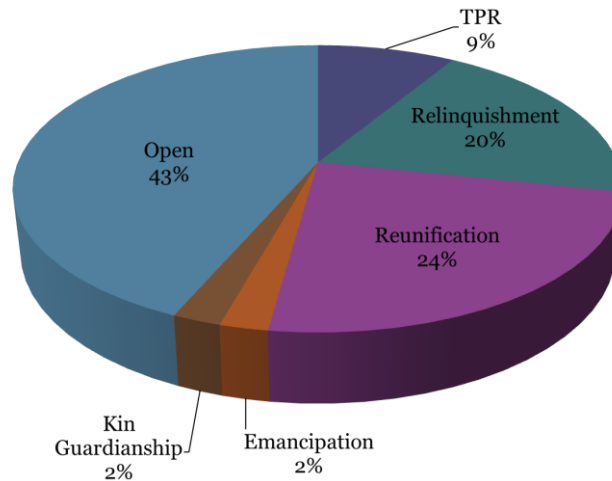
- **Large-scale analysis of CAFF program included:**

- “Listening Tours” with current court-appointed attorneys and Children’s Court judges, and interviews with individual attorneys across the state were held. The highlighted findings included: 1) adequate attorney compensation; 2) addressing the inequity in compensation per judicial district; 3) centralized management of the CAAF program; 4) annual evaluation for performance and quality; and 5) what supports might be provided to assist attorneys.
- Met with a small group of current and former CAAFF attorneys and subject matter experts to evaluate proposed program and compensation models.
 - Analyzed CAAF attorney log data and case data reviewing attorney hours spent on case and various compensation formulas that might be utilized.

- **Social Worker Model (SWM) – 13th Judicial District (Sandoval & Valencia Counties)**

- The Family Support Services model has been piloted in Sandoval County since July 1, 2013 to present. The pilot was expanded to Valencia County on July 1, 2015. The program currently contracts with 1 full-time MSW Supervisor and six social work interns who receive small stipends per-semester. The program gathers and reports on data annually. There is no data analysis for Valencia County yet.
 - Sandoval County report is attached. *See Attachment #4.* Highlights include:
 - Provided case management to 74 individual parents (76%) of the 97 parents total
 - Affected the permanency of 94 children

Outcomes for All 46 Cases



Improvements to CAAF Program: Presented to the New Mexico Supreme Court and approved by Court on March 23, 2016. Improvements include:

- Contracting attorneys to serve in multiple judicial districts, and in multiple attorney roles;
- Centralize contracts between the AOC and the attorneys;
- Implementation of a new hourly compensation formula.
- Revised RFP designed to objectively identify offerors who have children's law experience, requiring a writing sample, and professional references.
- Revised contract to reflect the centralized CAAF program management
- Evaluation Process
- Grievance Process

Outcome Measure #4: Improving Outcomes for Children and Families by Increasing the Knowledge, Skill, and Ability of the Child Welfare Community through training efforts.

The 22nd annual Children's Law Institute (CLI) was held on January 7-9, 2015, at the Hotel Albuquerque. Just over 1,000 individuals registered and 949 attended CLI. CLI included:

- (49) 90-minute workshops,
- 2 keynote presentations, and

- (2) 3-hour pre-sessions, including a legal pre-session specifically for judges and lawyers on the disability rights of parents.

During CLI, a special 90-minute overview of the child welfare system was provided to new children's court judges and their mentors by the Director of the Corinne Wolfe Children's Law Center (CLC).

The CLC was created in 1997 as a public service center at the Institute of Public Law, UNM School of Law. The CLC works to enhance the knowledge and skills of law students and the many professionals and volunteers who work in New Mexico's child abuse and neglect and juvenile justice systems. With funding from the Court Improvement Project Training Grant, an appropriation from the state legislature, and a variety of grants and contracts, the Center provides comprehensive, statewide, law-focused training, online and print resources, and technical assistance on the legal and multidisciplinary issues that arise in child welfare and juvenile justice cases in state and tribal courts.

On behalf of the CCIC, and with funding from the Court Improvement Project, in 2015 the CLC: Wrote and distributed a "pocket part" updating the 2014 Child Welfare Handbook and the 2011 **Juvenile Justice Handbook**.

- Conducted the annual 2+day "**Core Curriculum**" (*Essential Information for Practicing and Presiding in Child Welfare Cases*) for 35 Children's Court Judges and attorneys. This training provides 15.7 hours of in-person training that introduces the central legal concepts and practices unique to civil child abuse and neglect cases in New Mexico. This "Core Curriculum" provides a comprehensive overview of the child welfare system, from investigation to appeal, emphasizing constitutional and statutory requirements that apply to in-court proceedings and out-of-court events. It includes special emphasis on the role of the judge, including separate break-out sessions for judicial officers. In 2015:
 - 96% of participants who responded to a post-training survey indicated that the core training provided a meaningful learning opportunity, and
 - 92-96% responded that they learned new information in each of the 8 training sessions.
- Delivered the annual **Short-Term Intensive Mentoring Program** for 8 new child welfare contract attorneys. The program involved a half-day training for mentors

and protégés on mentoring/being mentored and the ethics of practicing in a new area of the law, plus 6 weeks of intensive one-on-one mentoring by a highly experienced contract attorney. 100% of participants in the mentoring program said they would recommend the Mentoring Program to other attorneys.

- Prepared materials for and hosted 9 hour-long **videoconferences for children’s court judges and hearing officers**. As a direct response to the Needs Assessment conducted by the CLC in 2014, the videoconferences are designed as peer-to-peer learning opportunities for judicial officers. A CLC staff attorney (most often the Director), prepares a brief outline of the topic (typically 2-6 pages), which is circulated before the videoconference. During the videoconference, the staff attorney briefly introduces the topic by providing a 5-minute overview and then facilitates a conversation among the judges. This allows the judges to focus on areas of concern to them and to draw on each other’s experiences and expertise. During 2015, the videoconferences focused heavily on procedural issues, in order to provide support to new judges. The topics included: *Ex Parte* Custody Orders and Custody Hearings, Trauma-Informed Courts, Adjudication and Disposition, Judicial Reviews, Evidence and Due Process Considerations in Child Welfare Cases, Indian Child Welfare Act: Key Concepts and Recent Clarifications (offered twice), and Adoption and Permanent Guardianship.

At the judges’ request, in 2016, the videoconferences will focus on broad themes, national trends, and cutting-edge issues. Although not all 2016 topics have yet been determined, we anticipate covering: preventing sex trafficking, how to involve children and youth in court, infant mental health, behavioral health services, the role of the judge regarding “normalcy” activities and prudent parenting, and secondary trauma/self-care for judges.

- For the ninth consecutive year, the CLC offered **regional cross-training** for all professionals and volunteers involved in the child welfare system. In 2015, the cross-training program, *Honoring the Expertise of Our Clients: Using their Knowledge In and Out of Court to Create Sustainable Change*, was offered in 5 locations during April and May. The programs focused on family engagement through evidence-based practices, motivational interviewing, youth in court, preparing for court, and more. The programs were attended by 266 participants, including 6 judges, Children’s Court, Contract and private Attorneys, court staff

and attorneys, juvenile justice workers, CASAs, tribal case workers, care coordinators for various managed care organizations, foster parents, foster youth, and others (e.g. educators, mediators, social work students, and medical personnel).

The cross-training this year intentionally departed from the typical Power Point and speaker format, instead focusing on innovative, interactive approaches to fully engage learners and to model ways participants might engage the expertise of their own clients in order to help them make and sustain meaningful change. We used different technologies (i.e. clickers, cell phones, and tablets), videos, various “Liberating Structures” (conversational tools designed to include and engage all participants), topics prioritized by participants, and a game designed to review the content learned.

The format intentionally created opportunities for participants to partner with participants across fields and to learn to use technology to access information. Participant reactions to the training topics and the new teaching approaches were positive, indicating that all of the content was practical and relevant to their work and practical and that they benefitted from all of the interaction required by the innovative approaches to teaching.

Recommendations for 2016



1. Children's Court Improvement Commission

In working with the CCIC Co-Chairs, Casey Family Programs (CFP), and the Kellogg Foundation, will support the development of a strategic direction and structure for the New Mexico Children's Court Improvement Commission (CCIC). CFP will support a strategic planning process toward the development of specific priority areas focused on improving the influence of the CCIC on child and family safety and well-being. The planning process will be conducted through a five phase process. All work will be managed by Everette W. Hill, with Casey Family Programs providing technical assistance and requested support regarding data and as appropriate. Work will be directed through a collaborative process between the Administrative Office of the Courts, Justice Maes, Justice Vigil, CCIC Co-Chairs and CYFD (potentially Kellogg Foundation). Any products developed through this work will be accessible and shared equally among participants.

2. Court Processes

In working with the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Attorney and Management Analyst, a long-term sustainability process will be developed to ensure court clerk managers around the state are running data quality reports, monitoring timelines, and conducting case audits.

The Management Analyst will work with Court Managers, Judges, and their Trial Court Administrative Assistants to ensure reports are as accurate as possible. The

Administrative Office of the Courts will require the following procedures be established by each Court to ensure quality of data that is entered into the Odyssey Case Management System:

- On the first day of each month the Court Manager will run the data quality reports by following the program guide that has been provided to each Court;
- Upon completion, the Court Manager will complete a form, provided to them by the Administrative Office of the Courts, informing the Management Analyst that this task has been completed and if there is any follow-up assistance needed from the Administrative Office of the Courts.
- In addition to running the data quality reports, the Court Managers are also required to run weekly case audits. This ensures that data entry errors are caught quickly and fixed in a timely manner.
- Quarterly performance measures will be run for each Court and reviewed by the Justice.
- New clerks will need to be trained in entering JQ cases into Odyssey before they are asked to complete this task on their own. The Administrative Office of the Courts can provide training as needed.

3. Court Appointed Attorney's and improved Legal Representation

Implementation of CAAF program improvements will begin immediately. The new compensation formula will be implemented on July 1, 2016 as follows:

The AOC shall compensate the Contractor for appropriately-billed legitimate legal services as follows:

Hourly Rate

In-court	\$60 per hour
Out-of-court	\$60 per hour

In-court and out-of-court hours will be billed against a benchmark maximum dollar amount, or cap. Benchmark caps for Guardian ad Litem/Youth Attorney and Respondent Attorney are as follows:

Benchmark Compensation Caps for Guardian ad Litem/Youth Attorney

Petition to Adjudication	\$1,200
Disposition to First Permanency Hearing	\$1,500
Annually every year thereafter	\$900

Benchmark Compensation Caps for Respondent Attorney

Petition to Adjudication	\$1,500
Disposition to First Permanency Hearing	\$1,200
Annually every year thereafter	\$900

For example, the \$1,500 cap for a respondent attorney permits a **maximum** of 25 hours (\$1,500/\$60) to be billed for the time expended upon the segment of the case extending from the initial filing of the petition through adjudication.

If Contractor reaches the benchmark cap and circumstances warrant additional time and/or expenses to reach the benchmark, Contractor shall submit a Request for Pre-Approval to the CAAF Office to receive authorization for future billing. The request should explain reasons for the amount of time required on the case. Further instructions and a sample form are included in the Billing Guidelines and in paragraph 4(D) below:

Travel Reimbursement:

Contractor shall receive reimbursement for **authorized “assignment-related” travel** at the following rates:

Travel time	\$30 per hour
Mileage	0.46 per mile

Authorized actual travel time shall be reimbursed at a rate of \$30.00 per hour for travel that is “assignment-related” as defined in the general rules below. The mileage reimbursement is set at a rate established by the DFA:

- Travel To and From Court

Compensation applies to travel time after the first fifty (50) miles of all trips to and from court, absent a waiver by the CAAF Office or AOC General Counsel based upon a compelling need for representation in a particular under-served court. This restriction applies to travel to and from court.

The fifty-mile exclusion of compensation for time is applicable to travel to and from court proceedings wherever conducted (e.g., courthouse, mental health facility, hospital).

- **Travel Expenses Related to Client Visits**

Travel for client visits outside of court is compensable (\$30.00 per hour) even if the travel to visit the client does not exceed fifty (50) miles round-trip. Travel time to and from the court to meet a client on the day of court proceedings is excluded from compensation.

- Compensable “assignment-related travel” includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - travel to and from a court for court appearances, if the travel exceeds 50 miles;
 - travel to and from client visits; and
 - travel to and from other locations such as family team meetings, interview witnesses, investigate and research a case.

The threshold distance of fifty miles for all assignment-related travel (except client visits outside court) is measured from Contractor’s nearest office OR his/her home to his/her destination, whichever distance is shorter.

Court-Appointed Attorney Billing and Payment Guidelines and internal financial and case audit procedures are being drafted and will be implemented by mid-June.

4. Educational Outcomes through Data Sharing

Given the continued cuts in federal funding, the Casey Family Programs will assist with funding to continue the education localized efforts in the remaining counties of New Mexico. With this funding Shaening and Associates will provide the following services:

- Prepare Data Profiles

- Pull data from Juvenile Justice and Protective Services data system to create profiles of youth in each of 23 counties;
- Present the profile data in graphs;
- Write interpretation of each graphic presentation
- Update Materials:
 - Review material provided by Casey Family Programs and others;
 - Update the materials for the Localized Response meetings by incorporating new laws as well as new data and new directions
- Train Judges:
 - Write training materials and facilitation guidelines;
 - Develop and implement five regional trainings of Children's Court Judges
- Coordinate with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC):
 - Meet with the AOC on their logistics and administrative roles
 - Prepare AOC implementation plan

5. Training

- Children's Law Institute is scheduled for January 6-8, 2016 at the Hotel Albuquerque.
- Provide videoconferences for judges that will focus on broad themes, national trends and cutting-edge issues that include: sex trafficking, how to involve children and youth in court, infant mental health, behavioral health services, the role of the judge regarding "normalcy" activities and prudent parenting, and secondary trauma.
- Annual Core Curriculum for judges and attorneys. Possibly adding the following components:
 - Adjusting the Attorney Mentoring portion to help new attorneys new to Children's Court.
 - Odyssey training

6. Juvenile Justice

The Statewide Leadership Team (The Supreme Court, The Children, Youth & Families Department and The Association of Counties) conducted their first system assessment (a thorough review of county juvenile justice system and processes by a

process of interviews with all system key players) in San Juan County. The leadership team has finalized the assessment and presented the findings to the San Juan county board.

The San Juan county board was provided with recommendations based on the information gathered in the assessment.

Some of those recommendations included:

- Further cultivating the relationships with San Juan Navajo partners
- Develop training plans for all stakeholders in JDAI and the juvenile justice process
- Conduct a self-inspection of the juvenile detention center

This was the first assessment in the state work plan to phase in all NM counties through FY18.

Conclusion

The challenges faced by Children's Law professionals are best addressed through the collaborative efforts of the numerous stakeholders. The Commission serves as an important vehicle for system and community participants to jointly discuss and implement evidence-based best practices that enhance outcomes for New Mexico's children and their families. The Commission respectfully requests the Supreme Court approve and authorize the continued work of the Commission for the next Federal Fiscal Year.

